THE IMPORTANCE OF THE "MANAGUA INCIDENT"

Some 10 years ago in the September, 1956, issue of LATIN AMERICAN REPORT Magazine, our banner story was entitled: "Is Cuba a Communist Beachhead?" There was then widespread discontent in Cuba, and several Communist front organizations, including Fidel Castro's exiled operation, made much of their charges that the then-president, Fulgencio Batista, was an out-and-out dictator and was responsible for the problems of the country.

Unquestionably, much could be blamed on Batista but all of the blame could not be placed on him alone.

In an exclusive interview with Batista, I asked him if he felt there was any truth to reports received by LAR that the Communists wanted to make Cuba the center of Communist activity throughout the Americas. He replied that he believed that he had taken the necessary "appropriate measures" to see that this would not happen.

Despite Batista's statement, in LAR's December issue of that same year, we carried another banner story entitled: "Reds Menace Latin America". This article outlined various Communist designs in the hemisphere—most of which were consumated. In discussing Cuba this article said: ". . . It would be a grave mistake to presume that Communist effectiveness in Cuba has ended. To the contrary, the tactical pattern definable in other Latin American republics is apparent there (Cuba), too . . ."

Even as that article was being published, several United States daily newspapers were hailing Fidel Castro, who had just landed in Cuba, as the man who would lead the country to true democracy with freedom, prosperity and happiness for all. Castro played the martyr's role magnificently and praised great leaders like Simón Bolívar and Cuba's own José Martí. Castro did not mention Che Guevara who was by his side, and who had fled from Guatemala when the pro-Communist government of Jacobo Arbenz was overthrown.

We mention the above by way of explanation—and warning—of why we consider the January 22-23 Managua, Nicaragua, uprising so important—and why we are now printing what we believe to be a true account of that situation.

William G. Gaudet
PUBLISHER

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Send old address, exactly as it appears on your magazine, along with new address, including zip code. Allow at least four weeks to effect change.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All monetary figures are given in United States dollars unless otherwise specifically stipulated.

BARBADOS

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THIS MONTH'S COVER: Independence Square (formerly Trafalgar Square) and the Careenage, Bridgetown, Barbados. (Photo courtesy Barbados Tourist Board.)

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